

Message Text

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43

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16743

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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THAI GOVERNMENT POLICY

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: A. FBIS BANGKOK D250210Z OCT 73

B. BANGKOK A-10, JAN 8, 1973

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER SANYA THAMMASAK PRESENTED A 14-POINT STATEMENT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO A SKEPTICAL NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 25. REF A CONTAINS A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH POINT. THE STATEMENT IS A VERY CLOSE TO THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STATEMENT CONTAINED IN REF B, BUT CONTAINS MORE DETAILS AND DIFFERS SOMEWHAT IN EMPHASIS FROM ITS PREDECESSOR. THE FULL TEXT IS BEING SENT BANGKOK 16742. END SUMMARY.

1. POINT BY POINT THE AREAS COVERED IN THE NEW POLICY STATEMENT ARE ALMOST EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE 14-POINT STATEMENT MADE BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT LAST DECEMBER, ALTHOUGH THE ITEMS ARE IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ORDER. IN SOME CASES THERE IS A MORE DETAILED EXPLICATION, AND GREATER STRESS ON THE PEOPLE'S WELFARE AS BEING THE OBJECT
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OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS. ONLY POINT 13 DEALING WITH

THE FREEDOME OF THE UNIVERSITIES IS COMPLETELY NEW. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THE ONLY ITEM IN THE OLD POLICY STATEMENT TO BE LEFT OUT IS THE LAST ONE DEALING WITH THE UNITY OF THE COUNTRY. THE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE SANYA GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY MEANS WHAT IT SAYS.

2. THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY GAVE THE NEW STATEMENT A SKEPTICAL RECEPTION. BOONCHOO ROJANASATHIEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BANGKOK BANK AND A FY 1973 INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTEE, NOTED THE STRIKING SIMILARITIES WITH THE PREDECESSOR STATEMENT AND POINTED OUT HOW INADEQUATE IT WAS IN THE FACE OF MAJOR PROBLEMS SUCH AS INFLATION, DISPARITIES IN INCOME DISTRIBUTION, AND THE PREVALENCE OF CORRUPTION. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE NEW POLICY SAID NOTHING ABOUT PROMOTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THAILAND. IN ADDITION HE CRITICIZED THE NEW GOVERNMENT FOR NOT SPECIFYING A DATE FOR THE PROMULGATION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

3. OTHER NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ECHOED BOONCHOO'S REMARKS AND WENT ON TO CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO REEXAMINE ALL THE OLD SARIT THANARAT REVOLUTIONARY PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECREES, TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT CORRUPTION, AND TO SEPARATE CAREER CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS FROM POLITICS.

4. PRIME MINISTER SANYA LISTENED TO ALL OF THE CRITICISM AND ANSWERED SIMPLY AND FORTHRIGHTLY OUTLINING THE NEED TO HEAL POLITICAL WOUNDS AND TO DRAW THE PEOPLE TOGETHER BY GIVING THEM THE FREEDOM THEY HAVE LACKED AND BY DOING AN HONEST JOB OF GOVERNING. HE REITERATED THAT HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE CONSTITUTION COULD BE PROMULGATED WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

5. DESPITE THE POLEMICS, SANYA'S INTELLECT AND PROFESSORIAL PRESENCE HAD A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, AND GAVE PROMISE OF WINNING THEIR COOPERATION IN THE GOVERNMENT'S ENDEAVORS TO COME.

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